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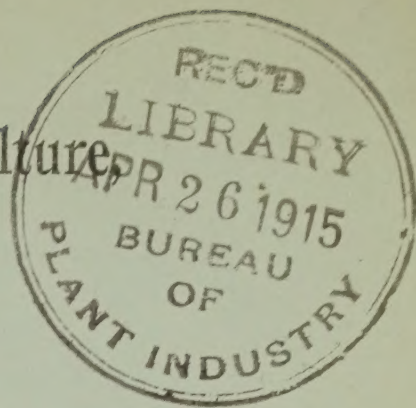


## United States Department of Agriculture

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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**LADINO CLOVER** (*Trifolium repens* var. *latum*).

Ladino or giant white clover is a very large form of the ordinary white clover so common in lawns and bluegrass pastures. It is a perennial and appears to be able to hold its own in pastures wherever it has been tried. It has been introduced into this country from northern Italy and is said to be the chief forage and hay crop of certain portions of that section. The stems lie flat on the ground, but the leafstalks are very long, and it is these that are mown for hay. The stems are not injured in cutting, and consequently new leaves appear very soon after being mown. Its roots do not go deep into the soil, and it can thus be grown on thin land if it is plentifully supplied with humus. The Ladino clover makes a growth of 8 to 12 inches in height as compared with 3 to 4 inches for the ordinary white clover. Two or three cuttings of hay may be obtained during a season. The yield is comparatively small. The fodder, however, is very rich and is especially valuable for cutting green and feeding to chickens, calves, or other stock. It has proved hardy in Wisconsin and is also well adapted to conditions as far south as Alabama. It is primarily of value as a pasture crop, as it furnishes considerably more grazing than the ordinary white clover.

Five pounds of seed per acre are sufficient, especially if the land is comparatively free from troublesome weeds. It is well to seed Ladino clover in the early spring with a light seeding of some nurse crop, such as oats or other grain. When used in pasture mixtures, 1 or 2 pounds may be seeded. Since the seed of Ladino clover is very scarce and high priced, it is suggested that wherever a stand is observed to be setting even a fair seed crop it be harvested for seed. The seed heads can be mown with an ordinary mowing machine with a canvas receptacle attached behind the cutter bar to catch the heads as they are clipped off. These heads can be placed on a tight-bottomed rack and hulled with an ordinary clover huller. If the seed is for local use, however, the heads can be flailed until the seed is well shattered and can then be sown in the chaff, with presumably as good results as would be obtained by seeding the clean commercial seed.

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